Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 /169 W

-----066330 091210Z/11

R 091100Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 653

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSYSLIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

/AMEMEMBASSY QUITO 180

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, OPEC, KU

SUBJECT: OPEC MINISTERIAL MEETING

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REF: (A) KUWAIT 1844, (B) STATE 087737 (NOTAL), (C) ABU DHABI 0980 (NOTAL), (D) KUWAIT 1481 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 8 QUOTES KUWAIT OIL MINISTER SHAIKH ALI KHALIFA AS SAYING THAT OPEC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN GENEVA APRIL 3-4, (REPORTED AS POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 3-4, REF A) WILL NOW BE HELD MAY 4 IN RIYADH. STORY INDICATED THAT OPEC SPOKESMAN IN VIENNA REFUSED TO COMMENT ON SHAIKH ALI KHALIFA'S ANNOUNCEMENT BUT STATED A NEW DATE AND VENUE WILL BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED SOON.

2. OIL MINISTER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE RIYADH MEETING WOULD BE "INFORMAL" AND THAT IT WOULD HAVE NO FIXED AGENDA. "INFORMAL SOURCES" WERE QUOTED AS HAVING SAID MEETING WOULD DISCUSS SEVERAL OPEC RELATED MATTERS INCLUDING THE EFFECT OF THE DOLLAR DEVALUATION ON OIL REVENUE. PRESS REPORTS APPEAR TO CONFIRM SUBSTANCE OF REFS A AND C EXCEPT FOR LOCATION OF MEETING WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE SHIFTED FROM GENEVA TO RIYADH.

3. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT EMBASSY ABU DHABI REPORTS TAIF (OR GENEVA) RATHER THAN RIYADH AS SITE FOR MEETING (ABU DHABI 980). FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT OIL MINISTERS WILL BE WILLING TO MEET IN RIYADH IN MAY HEAT. THIS MAY BE A SAUDI PLOY TO DISCOURAGE THE MEETING. MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: EFIN, KU, OPEC

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